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TUESDAY
MAY 26, 1953

We left Versailles at 8:00 o'clock this morning and came to town. The last three days have been [redacted] hot, with the temperature between 85 and 90.

André de Staercke called on me this morning. He had spent the week end in Belgi[redacted]and exhorted Van Zeeland to go ahead and press even more energetically for the ratification of the EDC by the Belgian Parliament. Van Zeeland intends to do so and will probably make some announcement on the subject today. He has appointed André as head of the Belgian Delegation for the EDC meeting at Rome in June, which is excellent.

I went to see Doug Dillon to tell him about my conversation with Van Starkenborgh.

Guy Mollet came to lunch with me. I sent the following telegram about my conversation with him:

"Lunched with Guy Mollet today. He considers his position as party leader stronger than at any time in the past. Believes that Reynaud will obtain necessary votes to become Prime Minister. Thinks Reynaud's domestic policies would be bad from viewpoint leftist parties but that his foreign policy would be satisfactory.

"As to EDC, French Parliament will not act before autumn, because of Saar question, since Adenauer does not wish seriously to consider this matter until after German elections.

"When European Army comes up for vote, Mollet feels he will be faced with a cruel dilemma. Since Gaullists will be against Government on this issue, latter will have to turn to party which presumably will not be represented in Cabinet, namely Socialists, to obtain necessary votes for ratification. If Socialists vote for ratification, they will be accused by Communists of supporting Government which is reactionary in domestic field. As situation now appears to Mollet, however, he is willing to support European Defense

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